

THE FROG AND TADPOLE STUDY GROUP OF NSW INC.

NUMBER 30 - JULY 1997 PO Box A2405 Sydney South NSW 1235

THE NEXT MEETING - 7.00 PM, FRIDAY THE 1 ST OF AUGUST 1997 AT THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM (WILLIAM STREET ENTRANCE)



FOR YOUR DIARY: THE OCTOBER 1997 MEETING WILL BE HELD

ON FRIDAY 26 TH SEPTEMBER 1997 ONE WEEK EARLIER
TO AVOID THE LONG WEEKEND AND SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

#### **MEETING FORMAT for 1st August 1997**

7:30pm Green - thighed Tree Frog - Frank Lemckert

8.10pm Spotted Grass Frog - Arthur White

8.15pm 5 favourite frog slides or 5 minutes

8.40pm Raffle and Auction

9.00pm Finish for tea, coffee & biscuits

#### REGULAR FEATURES

News and announcements, field trips, projects and committee reports.

Discussions, advice, gossip, welcome table, auction, sales table!

Bring a visitor!

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#### THE LAST MEETING (6. 6. 97)

#### A. THE AGM

The resolution to effect a change to our Rules of Association was carried: The formerly separate committee positions of Exhibition Coordinator and Publicity Officer are now amalgamated, and there will be two of them.

Martyn Robinson, as outgoing President, gave a summary of highlights of the past year, he thanked the committee and frogmarched various committee members up to give brief reports of happenings in their areas.

Arthur White presented his audited financial report - which you will see further down in this issue. A vote of thanks was carried (a) to Arthur for his diligent work and good financial results, (b) to the Museum for keeping our costs low by renting the Hallstrom Theatre out to us at very preferential rates and (c) to Barnardos Australia for the use of their photocopier for most of the year, keeping our printing costs down.

The committee was then duly dissolved, an election took place and Frank Lemckert emerged as our new President. The other committee members are:

Chair Secretary Treasurer

Giselle Howard Alison Frappell Arthur White

Membership Officer

Anthony Nicholson

Field Trip Coordinator

Editorial Panel

Ken Griffiths

(a) Monica Wangmann

(b) vacant

Exhibition / Publicity (a) Lothar Voigt

(c) vacant

(b) vacant

If you are interested in taking up one of the vacant positions, please ring Frank Lemckert on 02 9 872 0159 or Alison Frapell on 02 9 436 0188

#### B. THE "NORMAL" MEETING

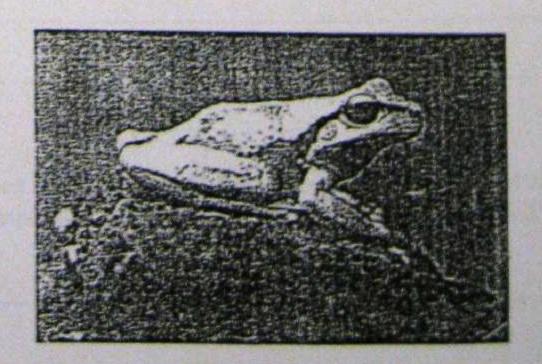
rog Photography, a slide show treat by Ken Griffiths, I was truly something for everyone.

For those of us who may not be able to tell one end of a camera from the other but who just love watching frogs amplexing, well, and calling and climbing and fighting and all the other things they do, this was a show worth remembering. The next best thing to being out in the field with them; maybe even better - let Ken get bitten by the mozzies instead!

Then there are those of us to whom a frog is mostly a pretty good excuse for getting the camera out. For them, this is Ken's advice:

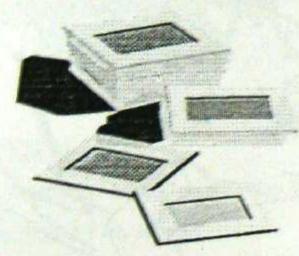
You need a single-lens reflex camera, ideally with a full macro lens.

- · Less ideally but cheaper, you can use a general purpose lens if it has a macro setting and if the frog is big enough.
- · Other solutions in the cheaper category are extension tubes (where you lose much of the light), or screw-on magnification lenses (where you lose some clarity around the edges) or a reversing ring so you can put your normal lens on back-to-front (and where you also lose some light). All these solutions can be frustrating when you're changing lenses in the middle of a swamp, in the dark and in the rain and with the frog about to take off again.
- So for serious fun, a macro lens it is. And while you're at it, get a 100mm one for the flightier subjects and a 50mm one for the more sessile subjects. With the longer lens you can keep twice the distance from the frog, with the shorter one you get twice the depth of field.
- · Then you need some flash guns, mainly so you can stop down to get good sharp depth. Two guns with different power output will give you some shadowing to prevent the picture from looking flat and featureless. (A ring flash which you can tell by the bright circles in the frog's eyes would probably illuminate your frog too evenly.)
- Mount your two flashguns and camera onto a frame with a steady grip, perhaps a bicycle handle. When you're up to your waist in the water, the illusion of you riding a bike will be perfect.
- A head torch is best for picking up eyeshine to find your frogs, but it can get in the way of the camera. You can strap a small torch onto the camera though. (If the torch is too bright, especially for closeup work, you can't see the eyeshine reflection.)
- In rain, wrap plastic bags around your equipment and cable connections.
- Always have your gear ready to go in the field.
- Avoid too many shots of frogs in artificial setups. Snapping them in situ, against the background they chose, usually works better. And many frogs stay put anyway.
- · And if you shoot tadpoles through scratchy glass, the flashguns make every scratch in the glass light up. But that's another story, hopefully for some other time with Ken.



#### The five slides people brought in:

- Marion took pix of strange colour morphs of Hip-pocket Frogs. She also found that those across the border in southern Queensland were bigger than ours.
- Arthur found that both the Wallum Froglet Crinia tinnula
  and the Heath Frog Litoria littlejohni were calling at
  Kurnell, turned on by the cold weather. The perched
  swamps at Kurnell in which the tinnula hang out are very
  acid and very saline (up to one third sea water!).
- Frank showed photos of Mixophyes and made us guess
  which species they were. So we democratically decided
  that the one with the silvery-blue eye top was a balbus (the
  Stuttering Barred River Frog), and the one with the dark
  eye with a little bit of gold in it was a fasciolatus (the
  Great Barred River Frog).



Frogfriendly valuables, lovingly donated by our members, were in part auctioned off by Lothar, in part sold at the table by Monica. They produced \$ 150.00 for our kitty.

Elated victory speeches on frog keepers licences rounded off the day - still premature but on increasingly safe grounds! L.V.

#### LICENSING: THE FINAL COUNT

Opposition to keeping frogs and reptiles amounted to 78 letters during the two-month NPWS review period. (2300 were fired off before that but they were in the end not considered.) For the proposals were a round 8,200 letters!!! (Many of these replies were in favour of both proposals - frogs and reptiles, so if these were each counted as two responses, we have nearly 12,000 on our side.)

Since then, we were given the opportunity to comment further on licensing issues and on which species should be in which category. The NPWS submission made its way to the Minister at the beginning of this month. It does however recommend the (unreasonably, we think) high fees for Class 3 licences. It has also come up with a Class 2 for frogs which we didn't think much of.

With some luck, be it good or bad, there should be a further update at the meeting.

L.V.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE FIELD TRIP CO-ORDINATOR

I have several outings planned for the coming season so hopefully there will be a little interest. The outings are family oriented with nothing too difficult planned so children and big kids can enjoy the delights of frogging together.

I plan to have a couple of overnight camps as well. Below is a guide to field trips and dates should be advertised in the coming newsletters. If you wish to contact me, my home number is 02 9520 9961 between 7 and 8 pm please.

- Overnight camp at the Basin camping area in the Watagan Mountains.
- Overnight camp at the Cecil Hoskins reserve near Bowral.
   Special permission will be given for FATS Group.
- Morning walk in the sand hills on the Kurnell Peninsular.
   Bring your sand Ski.
- Night walk in Darkes Forest area.
- Afternoon walk, tea and night walk near Woronora Dam in Heathcote NP.
- Night walk around lagoons at Heathcote in Royal NP.
- Yeramba Lagoon Georges R. NP

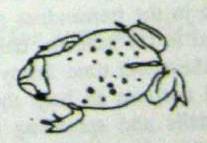
#### Ken Griffiths

#### FIELD TRIP, SATURDAY 17 AUG 1997 DARKES FOREST

A spotlight in the Darkes Forest area this time of year should prove good for the Whistling Tree Frog and Jervis Bay Tree Frog. Haswell's Frog should also be in abundance. It will be cold and hopefully a little rain might fall as well, so bring warm clothing and a thermos. Easy walking with some water to walk in if you wish.

K.G.





#### FIELD TRIP, SATURDAY 20 SEPT 1997 HEATHCOTE / ENGADINE

Spotlighting around two lagoons at Heathcote/Engadine area in the Royal NP. If we have rain there may be up to a dozen species of frog. Easy walk, up to 3k max so bring sturdy footwear.

K.G.

#### ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1996-1997

#### Frog and Tadpole Study Group of NSW

		5	5
Opening Balance:			299.04
Income	Membership	2,719.04	
	Auction/Raffles	916.00	
	Donations	343,00	
	Frog tape sales	115.00	
	Smiths Lake Fees	70.00	
	Bank Interest	13.04	
	Total Income	4,178.04	
Expenditure	Meeting Venue hire	220.00	
	Postage	243.80	
	Stationery/photo	135.39	
	Raffle items	27.95	
	Herpetofauna	490.00	
	NCC Membership	160.00	
	Bank Fees	23.54	
	Timer	10.75	
	Insurance	270.88	
	Smiths Lake hire	70.00	
	Frog tapes	316.95	
	PO Box rental	125.00	
	Print "Endfrogs"	900.00	
	Total	2,994.26	
	Expenditure		
on Ca Comment			

Profit for year

1,191.78

Closing Balance

1,490.88

#### COMMENTS

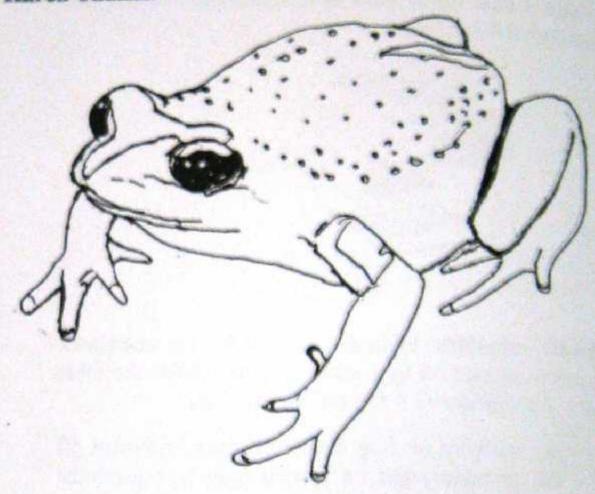
The solid financial position that the Society has reached is mainly due to the tremendous goodwill of members. People have helped to cut mailing, delivery and purchase costs by giving up their own time. Many people willingly join in the raffles and auctions to help the Society, others help with manning stalls and spreading our membership brochures. Because of this effort FATS is now in a position to undertake more significant ventures. The publication of the "Threatened Frogs of NSW" report is now possible. This book is a milestone for FATS and Australian batrachiology. Other substantial projects are being formulated. I congratulate the executive for their hard work and the membership for being so unselfish with their support and enthusiasm for our Society.

Arthur White Treasurer

#### WORLD ENVIRONMENT FAIR -NEWCASTLE

Fair. Unfortunately it was a fairly quiet day; It was cold and very wet, with heavy rain on and off, and people probably felt that it would be more pleasant to sit inside near a fire rather than run between stalls. Nevertheless, the public was enthusiastic, and we were able to answer questions and pass our information about what FATS does as a group. Thank you very much to Michael Mahony for his organisation, to Andrew. Danie, Leanne and the kids for their help, and to those who supplied posters and other exhibits.

#### Karen Thumm



#### HELP IN DETERMINING FROG BREEDING SEASONS

I have recently been in the position of providing advice on the best times and conditions to undertake surveys for frogs. After reviewing some draft plans, it has become clear that the general text book information provided does not supply enough specific detail as to when is the best time to look for breeding frogs so that you maximise the chances of finding them (e.g., they state that the Tusked Frog can be heard all year long, but it is rarely ever heard outside of spring/summer). In fact, there is no real collation of this information anywhere, and so I am attempting to put together a report and then write a paper which provides some of this information. What I would like from members of the FATS group is information on which months of the year they have recorded frogs calling and the timing of any actual egg-laying events. In general this would require people going back through their old field notes and then recording any such records on a form I have produced for this work. Any help would be appreciated and all people contributing will be acknowledged. In fact, if the Group can contribute enough information we can perhaps make it a FATS produced document.

F.L..

#### FROGBITS AND TADPIECES

#### AUDITOR REQUIRED FOR FATS

Calling all Chartered Accountants! We urgently need a Cnew auditor, as our very able ex auditor, Anthony Nicholson, has been promoted to the FATS committee! Please contact the President or Treasurer if you can help us. See the last page for contact numbers.



#### **FUTURE EVENTS**

FATS meetings Friday 1st Aug 97 and Friday 26th Sept 97

Field trip Darkes Forest 17th Aug 97

Field trip Heathcote 20th Sept 97

"Endfrogs" Threatened Frogs of NSW, offer ends 30 Sept

Barren Grounds Slithers and Croakers 24 to 26 Oct 1997

Frogweek NSW Sunday 3rd Nov to 8th Nov 1997

Aust. Society of Herpetologists conference 5 to 8 Feb 1998

National Science Week 2nd to 10th May 1998



#### SYDNEY'S RAINFOREST CAFE

FATS members are invited to dine in a new family restaurant at Daring Harbour. Mention you are a member and get a 10% discount of the cost of the meal. The Rainforest Cafe transports you to a lush rainforest, complete with a running stream, waterfall, giant tree trunks, spreading ferns, green canopy overhead, and accompanied by all the tropical sound effects. Children's meals are varied, tasty and all \$5.00 including a drink. Delicious and unusual main meals are mostly under \$20.00 and as cheap as \$9.50. You'll find the cafe (02 9264 4444) next to Sega World, near the IMAX theatre.

Monica Wangmann

#### BARREN GROUNDS BIRD OBSERVATORY

The Observatory offers a regular program of weekend courses on nature related interests. Enjoy warm hospitality, down to earth bush accommodation and healthy meals in the company of people with similar interests to yours. Activities at Barren Grounds includes Introductory Photography, Slithers and Croakers (24 to 26 Oct, Leader: Ken Griffiths), Ground Parrots, Glow Worms & Gliders (29 to 31 Aug) and Forest Floor Dwellers. It is 120 kilometres from Sydney and offers bunk style accommodation in a rustic sandstone lodge. Conditions can be cold and wet. Contact the Observatory Wardens at PO Box 3 Jamberoo NSW 2533. Phone 042 360 195 Fax 042 360 537. Literature will be available at the next FATS meeting on 1st August.

#### FLY PUPAE?



Need some small fly pupae? Then contact Drew and Mandy Smith at phone numbers or 02 9960 3417 (ah) or PO Box 64 McLaren Vale South Australia 5171. 100g containers cost \$6.00, 200g \$10.00, \$500g \$20.00 plus postage. Share a larger container with friends - and save!

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Write in to us with your funny froggy stories, questions, school projects, newspaper clippings (don't forget to tell us the date and source or newspaper its from), comments, review a book, environmental froggy ideas and information about local environmental groups.

This space is waiting for your article!

Please send in your stories. A letter/hard copy and disk (Microsoft Word) would be nice. Address mail to: Monica Wangmann 38 Albert Pde Ashfield 2131



### "ENDFROGS" Threatened Frogs of NSW Habitats, Status and Conservation. A FATS Group publication!

Our first run of 50 copies has just about gone, and we will be printing a second run immediately! As expected, the main interest so far has been from government organisations, (state and local government) and from consultants, as well as a few frog freaks...not mentioning any names!

If you don't know by now, this book covers information about recent survey results of 25 species of threatened frogs in NSW. It includes several newly recognised species, discusses decline factors, impact tolerance to habitat disturbance, range changes and fragmentation, population estimates and conservation reserves on which the species occurs.

If you haven't got a copy yet, get in touch with Karen Thumm (02) 94821017 and send a cheque for \$63.80 (including \$6 postage) to FATS Group, P.O. Box A2405, Sydney South, 1235, NSW, or pick one up at the meeting which saves you the postage. This offer is valid until the 30.9.97.

K.T.

#### AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHIC FROG STORY

As I understand it, the next issue of Aussie Geo will have an article on the research into declining frogs in eastern Australia. This will include sections which deal with various members of the FATS Group and so should be of interest to everyone in the society. It will also have a series of pretty pictures and a poster (I hope) and have a lot to say on the recent ideas of why frogs are declining and what people are doing about it. It should generally be very well worth getting a hold of one way or another.

FL

#### 25TH MEETING OF THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF HERPETOLOGISTS

The next ASH conference is on the 5 - 8 February 1998 in Yungaburra, Atherton Tablelands in Queensland. If you want to take part - and these conferences are great - get in touch with Keith McDonald, PO Box. 834, Atherton 4883 by 31. July, 1997. The cost is likely to be \$200 including food and accommodation.

#### **EMILY BURROWS**

In late May, I was able to return into the field at Eden a Ligiant burrowing frog (Heleioporus austaliacus) which Mike Mahony (University of Newcastle) had implanted with a radio-transmitter so that I and fellow State Forests of New South Wales staff could follow its movements. True to her name, Emily (as she has been called) immediately burrowed under the ground and stayed down until the next rains which fell several days later. She then re-appeared and moved about 20 metres before reburrowing. There she stayed for four weeks until she reappeared and moved 3 metres and then back down she went. It was not as much movement as I had hoped, but it is pretty cold down south at the moment and so this was not unexpected. Hopefully she will do a little more before being re-captured in order to remove the transmitter before it fails. It has been interesting though to see that it is possible to radio-track a frog which burrows and it gives me hope that we can find out more about this elusive species. I'll report again on Emily in the next newsletter. Hopefully I can get another frog with a transmitter on it to provide a perspective on life from another frog's point of view.

F.L.

on making the 2000 Olympics "green friendly", Olympics Minister Michael Knight has referred to the building of a "frog proof fence" around the car park at Homebush Bay to keep endangered frogs which live in the area from getting squashed by vehicles. I ww 4-6-97 "We take our frog management advice from the Australian Museum; we are doing everything they tell us to do and we have spent a lot of money protecting those frogs and they won't end up in the car park," he said. Oui!

#### GREEN-THIGHED FROGS AT BULAHDELAH

Tell, a decision was made finally to grant the RTA a VV licence to build the by-pass at Bulahdelah. The Green-thighed Frog populations in the area are all to be monitored to see how they fare over the following few years. A few experimental breeding sites will also be built between the forest and the road which is being built between the forest and one of the known breeding sites of the Green-thighed Frog. It is hoped that the frogs can be encouraged to not cross the road to get to the old site, but rather stop short at the new site and avoid getting intimately acquainted with Mr Dunlop. If anyone is interested in seeing the report on what was found out about the Green-thighed Frogs of the area, please catch up with me. I hope that I will be able to continue being involved in this project, but we will have to wait and see the decision of the road construction company.

F.L.

# Breeding frogs for the table

As frogs are a delicacy, it makes sense that frog farming is a venture that many people will attempt. But, as SAM CHEONG discovers at one successful bullfrog farm, managing millions of these amphibians is no easy task.

ROGS have long been a gourmet's delight. Whether sauteed Frenchstyle or stir-fried as cutlets with onions and cashewnuts as the Chinese do. frog meat is a novelty item on most menus.

Thus it is not surprising that a number of frog farms have sprouted. The frogs known for their nutritional value are the -qing-hwa (in Mandarin) or theeng-kai (in Cantonese, literally rice field frogs). They are also commonly known as sek-kup (padi field and rock frogs) to the Chinese.

The bullfrog or ngau-wa is especially gaining popularity among frog-eating connoisseurs. Today, this species (which is imported from North America) is being farmed here.

There are many bullfrog farms in the north of Peninsular Malaysia. One such commercial venture Aguaworld Sdn Bhd whose 1.2-hectare farm is . located in Sungai Karangan, Kedah.

Managed by brothers Oh Peng Kee and Oh Ah Kau, the farm is home to mildions of bullfrogs.

Visiting the farm is an eye-opener, literally. Thousands of little green eyes greet you from the surface of a hatching pond. In a pool under a shaded mesh, hundreds of juvenile Bullfrogs find cool respite from the blistering heat of the afternoon sun. The haunting sound produced by adult male bullfrogs at the Ohs' farm can be an extraordinary experience.

The Aquaworld frog and ; catfish farm has been the ... main source of income for the Ohs for the past 12 years. American bullfrogs (Rana catesbiana), which are bred for food, are brought into the country from their native habitat in North America.

Ah Kau, the younger brother, started the frogfarming business with 40 bullfrog breeders which he had obtained from a friend

and is today the proud freely. Juvenile bull rogs "father" to millions of juvenile bullfrogs.

The farm is now reaping profits for the Ohs.

"Frog-breeding is a lucrative business as demand for this amphibian as a delicacy is good throughout the country," says Ah Kau:

Trained in India in agriculture and animal husbandry, Ah Kau adds that the tadpole and juvenile frog count on the farm is in the millions.

Bullfrogs are sold by weight, at RM16 to RM18 per kilogramme.

"Kuala Lumpur, Ipoh and Johor Baru are my biggest markets because there is a high consump-'tion of these amphibians,"

says Ah Kau. It may seem easy, but managing these frogs is not an easy task. Care and dedication are the basic criteria in making the business profitable.

Ah Kau wakes up early in the morning to mix food supplements to feed the frogs. He finishes this chore late in the morning before he proceeds to feed the catfish.

There are more than 20 ponds in the main hatchery and frog-breeding area. All are maintained vigorously to prevent death and disease. There is a special mating pond which houses mature male and female pairs where the eggs are collected to be hatched.

In a separate pond, newly-hatched hatadpoles begin their lifecycle. After four months the tadpoles lose their fish-like appearance and assume their bullfrog shape.

The tadpoles are fed with a specially-formulated growth formula. They are kept in large aerated ponds where they grow and swim from the tadpole containment ponds are moved according to their age.

It takes about five months for a bullfrog to reach ."marketable" size. The young frogs are also sold individually at 50 sen each. According to Ah Kau, the bullfrogs are sold when they reach 300g.

Bullfrogs can grow to a length of 30cm and attain a weigh of 700g when they reach adulthood in nine months.

In the wild, the frogs feed on insects and small fish.

Breeding millions of these little green creatures is an arduous task as they are vulnerable to diseases and other problems when .. they are densely packed.

" However, diseases like · fungal and bacterial infections are treated with suc-: cess at the farm and this has 'decreased the frogs' mortality rate.

Ah Kau's main problem is overcoming bloating among the frogs which he thinks results from using formulated feed.

Some frogs bloat to twice their normal size and as a result stay upside down with their stomachs in the air until they fully digest their feed.

"Thus what appears to be a dead frog is actually a ...bullfrog bloated from its daily meal. I am still trying to solve this problem," he says.

He admits that bullfrogs are slightly inferior in quality compared to local padi field frogs but says that the latter are very expensive as they are scarce.

"Local frogs can fetch up to RM40 per kilogramme. They are sweet-tasting and a fine texture. have Bullfrogs are tougher in texture but are more affordable," he adds.

with a special growth formul



.... great potential

The Oh brothers are now trying to farm local padi field frogs.

"These frogs are difficult to breed because they tend to self-destruct in captivity. Adult padi field frogs die before we can mate them. This makes it difficult for breeders. We have to sedate them before we can artificially inseminate

them. "But I hope to farm local frogs because they fetch a higher price. This is my biggest challenge so far as

a professional frog breeder," adds Ah Kau. "Frog breeding is a new

activity in the country. It has great potential," he says.

Besides bullfrogs, the Oh brothers also breed catfish for sale.

Their 12-year experience in fish breeding has earned them a good reputation commercial' fish farmers.

With millions of these frogs at the farm, the

venture requires care and dedication to succeed

## WORLDENVIRONMENT DAY - Advertising Feature

## Olympic frogs' doom

car park, a Green Games Watch 2000 of threatened species such as the frog.

Review Report stated the planning and design activities of the Olympic Coordination Authority (OCA) achieved a low level of compliance with more than a quarter of the commitments outlined in the Environmental Guidelines for the Summer Olympic Games.

major weakness OCA's environmental protecting those frogs and they won't end

UNDERPASSES being built on the quality the main problems. GGW rates Homebush Bay Olympics site to protect OCA's protection of significant environthe rare green and golden bell frog would ments on the site as fair but the lack of a lead the amphibians into Haslams North management plan hindered the protection

(GGW) report said. ---- The report said a series of fences and The GGW Environmental Performance underpasses had been planned or built to protect the frogs from new roads. But information indicated that in the vicinity of Hill Rd and the Holker St extension, frogs would be allowed, and in some cases funnelled, into the car park.

Olympics Minister Michael Knight said the frog tunnels did not lead into the The review identified pollution as the car park. "We have spent a lot of money performance, with waste, water and air up in the car park."

## Wild sites protected

AN informal working party will be set up to develop a wild site/urban bushland conservation policy for Leichhardt municipality. At council's environment committee meeting last month resident Roberta Johnston, from FRROGS (Friends, Residents and Ratepayers Of the Gully), semphasised the need to protect green corridors and "wild sites" on cliff faces and in other inaccessible locations which had not been developed. tomorrow night's She said a management simenvironment committee plan was needed to ensure meeting.

Ms Johnston said someone should also be employed on a temporary basis to audit the sites and develop a formal data base. ?-Forest Lodge precinct committee representative Anne Peaston told the meeting there was a need to record the sites and develop an integrated policy approach to their conservation. The matter is due to be discussed again at

the long-term conservation

of these natural resources.

THE GLEBE & INNER WESTERN WEEKLY, Wednesday, June 4, 1997



#### CONTACTS

Frank Lemckert
Giselle Howard
Alison Frappell
Arthur White
Anthony Nicholson
Lothar Voigt
Vacant HELP!!!!
Can Griffiths
Ionica Wangmann
vacant - HELP!!!!!
people required

President
Chairperson
Secretary
Treasurer
Membership Officer
Publicity / Exhib Officer
Publicity / Exhib Officer
Field Trip Co-ordinator
Editorial Panel
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	phone
	(02) 9872 0159 (w)
	(02) 9636 3762 (h)
	(02) 9436 0188 (h)
	(02) 9436 0188 (h)
	(02) 9660 4393 (h)
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	(02) 9520 9961 (h)
	(02) 9797 6543 (h)

(02)	9520	9961	(h)
(02)	9797	6543	
(02)	2121	0343	(n)

### fax

(02) 9871 6941 (w) (02) 9895 7501 (w) (02) 9418 9964 (w) (02) 9418 9964 (h) (02) 9361 7981 (w) phone first (h)

between 7pm and 8pm

## 'Extinct' frogs didn't croak

TWO species of Queensland frogs, thought to be extinct, are still alive, according to a research assistant at Griffith University in Brisbane.

Lured by their distinctive calling sounds, Chris Marshall said he had uncovered populations of both the sharp snouted day frog and the northern tinker frog during field trips in north Queensland's Atherton Tableland on separate occasions last November.

"I've always been keen on frogs," said Mr Marshall, who works in stream ecology for the university's faculty of environmental sciences. "I recognised their calls after having listened to tapes of the sounds they made before they started disappearing."

The northern tinker frog had not been seen since 1991 and the sharp snouted day frog since 1994.

Telegraph 5. 7. 97

DON'T FORGET THE NEXT TWO FATS MEETING DATES ARE FRIDAY 1st August and 26th September 1997 NOT OCTOBER!!!!

And our thanks to all people who helped contribute to the Newsletter. Your FATS Group

We hold six informative, informal, topical and practical meetings each year at the Australian Museum (William Street entrance) in Sydney. Meetings are held on the first Friday of every even month (February, April, June, August, Oct. and Dec.) at 7 pm for a 7:30 start. Visitors are welcome. We are actively involved in monitoring frog populations and in other frog studies, and we produce the newsletter FROGCALL and FROGFACTS information sheets.